

## ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2023 8:30 am in Room 123, BOE HQ, 595 Prince Avenue.

**Attendees:** Alex Sams            Andrew Malec    Leara Rhodes    Nancy Hart  
Rick Parker            Erwin Greene    Ana-Maria Neal    John Gilbreath  
Troy Bassett           Gerald Arscott

**Staff Reports:** Copies of the following were distributed prior to the meeting:

- December, 2023 Meeting Summary
- January, 2024 ESPLOST Monthly Report
- January, 2024 ESPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- January, 2024 ESPLOST Construction Schedule
- November, 2023 ESPLOST 5 Financials
- November, 2023 ESPLOST 5 Budget Projections
- November, 2023 ESPLOST 6 Financials
- November, 2023 ESPLOST 6 Budget Projections

**Clarke Middle School:** The project is progressing and on schedule. Work is progressing to have the building dried in, with temporary heat, as soon as possible. Storm drainage needs to go in. The soccer field and lower parking area grading at the back is in progress. Switchgear and utilities are critical to ensuring permanent power to the building and is being closely monitored. Furniture purchase for Phase 1 will be reported to the BOE in February. Summer work will involve demolition of the remainder of the old building, sanitary utility tie in and new student drop off and expanded parking.

There was a wider discussion of solar power and sustainability issues. John Gilbreath explained that the priority has been to use funds on projects that give a much better return on investment than solar power. For example, LED lighting is now being installed throughout new and renovated buildings and in parking lots; thermal insulation is being significantly updated; new HVAC systems are the most efficient available. Solar power is still being developed. The return on investment is far from clear, taking account of the decline in performance of panels over their life and the additional maintenance and structural costs. The assumed power cost savings are normally far in excess of what the District is paying, making payback calculations unreliable. Georgia Power has stated that about 35% of the power they supply is from carbon-neutral sources. Suggestions that a school in Richmond County, Georgia has installed solar power that meets the total needs of the school are incorrect. All these issues will be considered by the recently created Sustainability Committee, the outcome of which will provide direction on future policies. John Gilbreath also explained that we do not obtain LEED certification, because of the expense of the registration process, but our buildings incorporate many of the LEED standards.

**Cedar Shoals School Renovation:** Bid documents for phase 1 have been issued. The intention is to report mechanical and demolition bids to the Board in January and for the remainder of Phase 1 to be reported in February. The modular classrooms have been installed and are now being occupied.

**HT Edwards Culinary Kitchen:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for January 19. Plans will be made to hold a future COC meeting there.

**HT Edwards Bio-Manufacturing Lab:** A design/build package has been issued for report to the Board in February and for the work to be done next summer 2024. The work comprises 2200 sq. ft.

**BOE – Ellard Hall:** Nothing to report.

**Facilities Review: HVAC Systems:** Bids are being prepared.

**Facilities Review: School C/Easom:** No change.

**Transportation & Technology:** Nothing to report.

**COC Membership:** Alex Sams encouraged members to continue to seek out candidates to join the Committee.

**Sales Tax Revenue:** The November collection was \$3.18m.

**Future Meetings**

Future meetings are scheduled for:

February 13, 2024

March 12, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.